United Nations A/ES-10/220–S/2003/239

General Assembly
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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 4 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, continues to perpetrate war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people as the occupying forces continue to launch assaults and raids against civilian areas throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. With the continuation and escalation of this Israeli military campaign, the casualties and destruction being endured by the Palestinian people continue to mount dramatically. In this regard, it is my deepest regret to inform you that the number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 has now tragically surpassed 2,200. These martyrs include Palestinian men, women and children from every sector and every generation of our society.

In the most recent attacks against the Palestinian civilian population, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 24 Palestinians, including a pregnant mother and several children. This most recent wave of Israeli attacks began on Sunday, 2 March, with an Israeli assault on Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. During that assault, the Israeli occupying forces killed three Palestinians and wounded more than 10 others. This was followed by the invasion of the Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip yesterday, 3 March 2003, in which dozens of Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers, backed by helicopter gunships, raided the camp, killing at least eight Palestinians and wounding many others. Among those killed was a 33-year-old Palestinian woman, Nooha Swidan Al-Makadmeh, who was in her ninth month of pregnancy. She was killed, while cradling and protecting her two-year-old daughter, when she was crushed to death in her home as Israeli occupying forces blew up homes during the assault on the camp. The woman died before reaching hospital as neighbours carried her on foot to a clinic while the occupying forces prevented ambulances from reaching the area to treat the wounded. Six other members of Mrs. Makadmeh's family were also wounded in the attack, including her husband and two young sons. Further, among the several other Palestinians killed yesterday by the Israeli occupying forces were two young Palestinian boys.

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During this same attack on the Bureij refugee camp, the Israeli occupying forces caused extensive destruction to homes and infrastructure. The occupying forces deliberately demolished four homes in the camp and damaged at least 11 other houses, rendering them completely uninhabitable, and leaving almost 150 people homeless. Moreover, the occupying forces caused damage to a nearby mosque and violated its sanctity when they entered it, purportedly to search for weapons. Windows of the mosque were smashed, and several bullet holes, identified as helicopter gunfire, were found in its walls. Several copies of the Koran were found damaged on the floor.

In recent days, the Israeli occupying forces have also carried out assaults in other towns and cities throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the Nablus area. One Palestinian man, Mohammed Hassan Ali Abdellatif Issa, was killed when he was shot yesterday by the occupying forces at a checkpoint in Nablus. He bled to death before reaching the hospital. Further, yesterday, the occupying forces continued to take over homes and buildings in the Old City of Nablus and took measures to block entrances to the area. During this raid on Nablus, the occupying forces abducted and detained several Palestinians, in addition to the many others detained in Ramallah, Jenin and in the vicinity of Al-Khalil. It has been reported in this regard that more than 45 Palestinians have been detained by the Israeli occupying forces over the past 24 hours alone. At the same time, recent days have witnessed more incidents of Israeli settler violence and harassment targeting Palestinian civilians. Today, a Palestinian boy, aged 14, was shot in the stomach by illegal Israeli colonial settlers firing from a car at a group of Palestinians in the village of Asawya near Nablus. This attack was preceded yesterday by settler attacks on several Palestinian homes in the area.

All of the above-mentioned cannot be considered just part of a routine list of the daily events taking place in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. These acts perpetrated by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people constitute grave breaches of international humanitarian law. Indeed, these acts, including, inter alia, the wilful killings of civilians, the wanton destruction of property, the illegal detention of persons and the collective punishment of the entire civilian population, constitute war crimes and atrocities by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. These crimes and atrocities have continued unabated since the onset of this vicious Israeli military campaign in September of 2000. Clearly, without urgent intervention by the international community to address this ongoing crisis, the bloodshed and suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli occupying forces will continue. A lack of political will and continued complacency by the international community in this regard will only allow Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to act with impunity, with mounting losses and hardship for the Palestinian people as a result.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 159 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 24 February 2003 (A/ES-10/219-S/2003/207), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 24 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of Palestinian martyrs to 2,203. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* (Monday, 24 February 2003, to Tuesday, 4 March 2003)

Monday, 24 February 2003

1. Mohammed Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Mismi
2. Abdullah Mohammed Alsaba' Al-Kafarneh
3. Mohammed Mahmoud Saleh Houwaiti

Tuesday, 25 February 2003

1. Ala'a Jawdat Mahmoud Abu Sharkh
2. Ahmed Khalil Abu Elwan (13 years old)

Wednesday, 26 February 2003

1. Fathi Mahmoud Saleh Abu Jibareh

Friday, 28 February 2003

1. Mohammed Yussef Ahmed Al-'Aloul

Sunday, 2 March 2003

1. Mohammed Mare'i Abdelhady
2. Abdullah Deeb Al-Asar
3. Abdelrahman Mustafa Jadallah (9 years old)
4. Aziza Deeb Ali Al-Qaseer Barakat

Monday, 3 March 2003

1. Tarik Saidi 'Aqel (13 years old)
2. Nooha Swidan Al-Makadmeh
3. Mohammed Ali Al-Babli
4. Fadi Fayez Al-Hawagri
5. Mutasem Hamed 'Aqel
6. Maher Mohammed Al-Rifae'
7. Waleed Abdellatif Al-Khatib
8. Rami Mohammed Yussef Awad
9. Najwan Mohammed Al-Salihi (17 years old)
10. Mohammed Hassan Ali Abdellatif Issa

Tuesday, 4 March 2003

1. Hisham Mohammed Mahmoud Amr (18 years old)
2. Abdullah Al-Ashhab
3. Basil Ali Abbas

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,203.

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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 7 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Israeli military campaign being carried out against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to widen in both scope and scale. Late yesterday, Thursday, 6 March, following intense raids, the Israeli occupying forces reoccupied areas under full Palestinian control around the towns of Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya and the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Nearly 100 tanks and armoured vehicles seized positions in the area, including taking over a Palestinian police base and an elementary school, blocked roads and dug trenches, and took up several sniper positions on building rooftops and around fields. Israeli bulldozers also razed and destroyed orchard trees and farmland in the area. This reoccupation of Palestinian territory by the Israeli occupying forces is indicative of the intentions of Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to pursue and escalate its military campaign in these densely populated civilian areas, certain to bring only more devastation and suffering to the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the death toll of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to tragically rise. In the three days since our last letter to you (A/ES-10/220-S/2003/239), 21 Palestinian men, women and children have been killed in raids and assaults carried out by the Israeli occupying forces and dozens of Palestinians have been wounded.

As in recent days and weeks, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to intensely target specific Palestinian civilian areas in the Gaza Strip. In the pre-dawn hours of yesterday, the Israeli occupying forces invaded the Jabaliya refugee camp, using both tanks and helicopter gunships. At least eight Palestinians were killed by Israeli tank fire directed at a group of Palestinians trying to salvage furniture from a woodwork shop that was ablaze and more than 100 people were wounded in the

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attack. Many of the killed and wounded were children. Also yesterday in Gaza, the occupying forces launched several helicopter missile attacks in Jabaliya, killing a 61-year-old Palestinian man, Mohammed Shihdeh Al-Biyari, and wounding more than 20 Palestinians, and shot dead 2 other Palestinian men, one of them a policeman. The carnage continued today with 3 Palestinians killed and more than another 15 wounded by the occupying forces in the area.

The killings committed yesterday by the Israeli occupying forces were not, however, confined to the Gaza Strip. Indeed, the occupying forces continued to carry out raids and assaults and other illegal practices and measures throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, yesterday, a 55-year-old Palestinian woman, Khairiyeh Mahmoud Alawneh, a mother of eight children, was killed by the occupying forces as she herded her sheep in a field near the city of Jenin. Also, among those killed were a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, killed during raids by the occupying forces in the Old City of Nablus, and a Palestinian man shot dead by Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem.

All of these brutal killings, in addition to the thousands of other killings of Palestinians by the Israeli occupying forces since September 2000, have been committed before the eyes of the world with no consequences to the occupying Power. It is this culture of impunity that has allowed Israel to continue relentlessly committing serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention, in all of its policies and practices towards the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 160 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 March 2003 (A/ES-10/220-S/2003/239), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 21 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,224 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Bargnouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Thursday, 6 March, to Friday, 7 March 2003)

Thursday, 6 March 2003

1. Mohammed Jamal Mohsen (14 years old)
2. Thaer Jabr Rihan (13 years old)
3. Ihab Ahmed Nabhan (14 years old)
4. Mohammed Manar Abu Wardah (16 years old)
5. Hamdi Othman Obeid (18 years old)
6. Nael Mohammed Abu Seedo
7. Ibrahim Jamal Al-Madhoon
8. Abdelkarim Ziyadeh
9. Naji Ismail Abu Jleeleh
10. Mohsen Awad Abu Odeh
11. Mohammed Shihdeh Al-Biyari
12. Hamzen Jabril Qarmour (17 years old)
13. Tarik Maher Al-Najjar (14 years old)
14. Abdullah Mahmoud Mikdad
15. Osama Mohammed Al-Asas
16. Mansi Abedrabbo Al-Mabhooh
17. Khairiyeh Mahmoud Alawneh

Friday, 7 March 2003

1. Baker Saeed Hawash (15 years old)
2. Imad Amin Finoneh
3. Ala'a Karam
4. Yussef Al-Manasreh

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,224.

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 17 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The vicious military campaign being carried out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to widen and intensify, claiming even more human lives in its wake. Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps continue to be targeted by the Israeli occupying forces, which routinely launch raids and attacks, using excessive and indiscriminate force against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population. Every day that passes witnesses more death, more destruction and the ongoing devastation of Palestinian society in all its aspects as the occupying Power continues to pursue this campaign of war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations against the Palestinian people.

In the 10 days since our last letter, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 41 Palestinians, including children, and killed one foreign national (American). Many other Palestinians have been wounded, several of them critically, during recent attacks by the occupying forces. In addition to the extrajudicial executions being regularly committed by the Israeli occupying forces against targeted Palestinians, the occupying forces continue to wilfully kill civilians through the use of excessive and indiscriminate force against the Palestinian population under occupation. An extreme illustration of such excessive and indiscriminate use of force and the occupying forces' shoot-to-kill policy occurred this past week, on Thursday, 13 March, when Israeli troops unleashed a barrage of machine gun and helicopter fire on two men on a road near Hebron, riddling their car with bullets and killing both of them. The two men killed were in fact Israeli soldiers, whom the occupying forces stated they had "mistaken" for Palestinians. Indeed, without provocation, without reason, without questions, the occupying forces shot at the men, intending to kill them and proving once again how lax the occupying Power's firing regulations are and how instituted the policy of wilful killing of Palestinians has become among the Israeli occupying forces.

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During this same period, dozens of Palestinian homes have been deliberately demolished by the occupying forces, leaving hundreds of Palestinians homeless, and dozens of other Palestinian homes and shelters have been damaged, many severely, by the occupying forces during their assaults. Moreover, the occupying forces continue to carry out raids and searches of homes and round-ups, while at the same time abducting, arresting and detaining Palestinians throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In less than two weeks, more than 100 Palestinians, including many from the Jenin, Nablus, Al-Khalil and Gaza City areas, have been detained by the Israeli occupying forces. These people are now being held illegally by the occupying Power, in addition to the more than 5,000 Palestinians being held in Israeli jails and detention centres, including nearly 65 Palestinian women.

With regard to the recent killings committed, just today, 17 March, the Israeli occupying forces, in two different assaults in the Gaza Strip, killed 10 Palestinians, among them a two-year-old girl, Hanan Ziyad Al-Asar, and two other Palestinian children, and killed 2 Palestinians in the Tulkarem area. In Gaza, early in the morning (Palestine time), Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles, backed by helicopter gunships, raided the densely populated Nusseirat refugee camp, killing at least seven people and wounding several others. A number of Palestinian homes were also blown up by the occupying forces during this assault. Later on the same day, the Israeli occupying forces raided the town of Beit Lahiya, firing indiscriminately in the area as children were going to school and killing three Palestinians. In addition, the occupying forces rounded up hundreds of residents of Beit Lahiya for questioning.

These brutal, wilful killings come on the heels of recent attacks launched by the occupying forces in the same area as well as in other areas that have killed many Palestinians. In this regard, last week, in less than 24 hours, the Israeli occupying forces killed 11 Palestinians in the Jenin area. On Thursday, 13 March, the occupying forces attacked the village of Tamoun near the city of Jenin, killing 5 Palestinians. The following day, the occupying forces launched yet another raid in the Jenin refugee camp, killing 6 Palestinians and causing extensive damage. Further, in an attack committed earlier in the week, Israeli occupying forces killed another Palestinian during a home demolition in Gaza. Indeed, the occupying Power's illegal practice of home demolitions has not only left thousands homeless but has also been a lethal practice that has claimed the lives of many. As such, the immense bulldozers being used by the Israeli occupying forces to raze and destroy Palestinian homes, lands and infrastructure represent yet another deadly weapon in Israel's vast military arsenal.

Regrettably, it is not only the Palestinian people that have suffered grave loss under the treads and plows of Israel's mighty bulldozers. Yesterday, 16 March, in a horrific act of wilful killing, an Israeli bulldozer ran over and killed a 23-year-old American woman, Rachel Corrie, during a home demolition in Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Ms. Corrie was among a group of activists with the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), who were protesting the home demolitions being carried out by the occupying forces. The ISM activists have repeatedly and voluntarily participated in such protests and non-violent demonstrations throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, trying to provide assistance and protection to the Palestinian civilian population facing Israel's relentless military onslaught. Ms. Corrie's tragic death provides even further proof of the excessive and indiscriminate force being used by the occupying Power against civilians. In this regard, Israeli claims that the driver of

the bulldozer did not see Ms. Corrie have been refuted by several witnesses, who stated that not only was she visible in a bright orange jacket, but that, using a megaphone, she had been speaking to the driver for several minutes prior to him running her over with the bulldozer's huge plow and treads.

Ms. Corrie's killing by the Israeli occupying forces should be firmly condemned by the international community. Failure to do so will only further sanction the impunity with which Israel, the occupying Power, has been feverishly carrying out its bloody and brutal campaign throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Indeed, such wilful killing of a civilian is a war crime, and the perpetrators of this crime must be held accountable and brought to justice.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 161 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2001/921) to 7 March 2003 (A/ES-10/221-S/2003/287), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deep regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 41 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,265 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 17 March 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Saturday, 8 March to Monday, 17 March 2003)

Saturday, 8 March 2003

1. Ibrahim Ahmed Khaled Al-Makadmeh
2. Ala'a Odeh Al-Shukri
3. Khaled Hassan Juma'a
4. Abdelrahman Zuhair Al-Amoudi
5. Mahmoud Hassan Al-Zinati
6. Mufeed Saed Al-Daefi

Sunday, 9 March 2003

Ribhi Mahmoud Abdelraziq Obeid

Tuesday, 11 March 2003

1. Imad Hussein Abu Gharkoud
2. Mohammed Ismail Ayash
3. Nidal Ibrahim Abu Saqr
4. Hafez Najmy Al-Rajbi
5. Jabr Jaber Joubran

Wednesday, 12 March 2003

Rami Taleb Saed Al-Ashqar

Thursday, 13 March 2003

1. Samir Saleh Mahra (from wounds sustained earlier)
2. Baker Nayef Attiyeh Bani Odeh
3. Imad Nayef Attiyeh Bani Odeh
4. Sami Fathi Mustafa Basharat
5. Amin Ali Sa'ad Basharat (18 years old)
6. Mohammed Ghazi Abu Murad Mahajneh

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,265 martyrs.

Friday, 14 March 2003

1. Yussef Ahmed Hassan Musharqeh
2. Wathiq Ahmed Al-Bish Ighbaryeh
3. Rabea' Farah Hasan Sharkawi
4. Osama Ribhi Saed Abu Khalil (15 years old)
5. Ibrahim Khalil Minizil
6. Saleh Adeeb Bu'atewi (from wounds sustained earlier)
7. Jihad Samir Abu Rabea' (17 years old)
8. Mohammed Nizar Ibrahim Selim (17 years old)

Sunday, 16 March 2003

1. Ahmed Mahmoud Al-Najjar
2. Mohammed Issa Abdelhady

Monday, 17 March 2003

1. Hanan Ziyad Al-Asar (2 years old)
2. Omar Hassan Darwish (13 years old)
3. Omar Tawfiq Abu Yussef (16 years old)
4. Iyad Bashir Azreeq
5. Ibrahim Yussef Al-Othmani
6. Saed Hosni Al-Taweel
7. Mohammed Rajeb Al-Safeen
8. Ramzi Al-Sudoodi
9. Shadi Kharees
10. Ala'a Al-Kahlousa
11. Muaed Ahmed Al-Ashqar
12. Samer Riyad Mohammed Al-Ashqar

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The toll of Palestinian martyrs, the toll of destruction and the extent of human suffering throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continue to rise as Israel, the occupying Power, continues to wage its brutal military campaign against the Palestinian people. With complete disregard and contempt for international law, including international humanitarian law, the forces of the occupying Power continue to wilfully kill, raid, destroy, abduct, detain and impose severe collective punishments on the civilian population under occupation, deepening the already dire humanitarian crisis. War crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations continue to be committed by the Israeli occupying forces on a daily basis.

It is against this tragic backdrop that the Palestinian people yesterday marked one year since the deadly Israeli invasion of the Jenin refugee camp, in which dozens of Palestinian civilians were killed, hundreds of homes were destroyed and thousands were displaced or left homeless. The horror, devastation and anguish of those days continue to haunt us, and we maintain that those responsible for the war crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people during that attack must be held accountable and brought to justice. The inability of the international community to take measures to seriously address such crimes and atrocities has undoubtedly allowed Israel to continue to act with impunity against the Palestinian people and to continue the bloodshed.

In the past two weeks alone, while the eyes and ears of the world have been turned to the grave situation in Iraq, the Israeli occupying forces have committed innumerable violations and grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Since my last letter to you, at least 25 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, including seven of whom were killed yesterday alone. Among those killed have been several innocent children. Only three of the recent tragic incidents in which Palestinian children have been killed by the occupying forces include the killing of a 12-year-

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old girl, Christine George Sa'deh, in Bethlehem on 25 March 2003, the killing of a 14-year-old boy, Jihad Abdelaziz Nazal, in Qalqilya yesterday as he stood outside his home, and the killing of an 18-year-old boy, Ibrahim Abdelnour Abu Shaloof, in a missile strike on Gaza yesterday.

In addition, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to raid cities, towns, villages and refugee camps throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, interrogating thousands and abducting and detaining dozens of people. Moreover, this week, the occupying forces once again began rounding up Palestinian males in certain areas. On Wednesday, the occupying forces raided the Tulkarem refugee camp, blocking all roads leading to and from the camp with barbed wire and imposing a curfew on the entire camp. Using loudspeakers, the occupying forces then ordered all males between the ages of 14 and 40 to leave their homes and to gather in the courtyard of a school belonging to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which the forces had occupied, or to face punishment. The 1,000 boys and men were then boarded onto buses and forcibly taken to the Nur al-Shams refugee camp, a few kilometres east of Tulkarem, and ordered not to return to their homes until the occupying forces completed their searches. Several of those rounded up were arrested and detained by the occupying forces. Today, a similar military raid and search is being conducted in Jenin by the occupying forces, in addition to the raid and search of more than 30 homes in the city last week.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued its illegal practice of home demolitions. Dozens more Palestinian homes throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have been deliberately destroyed in recent weeks, displacing and dispossessing several more Palestinian families. Further, the occupying Power continues to confiscate more Palestinian land and to pursue its illegal settler colonialism at a feverish pace. Among recent measures, reported to be coordinated with the Israeli Prime Minister's office, has been the move of several illegal Israeli settlers into a new settlement adjacent to the densely populated Arab neighbourhood of Ras al-Amud in Occupied East Jerusalem. The continuous transfer of Israeli settlers into the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the ongoing confiscation of land represent blatant attempts by the occupying Power to colonize the Palestinian land and are flagrant violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 162 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 March 2003 (A/ES-10/222-S/2003/326), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my deep regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 25 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,290 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 April 2003 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

Tuesday, 18 March, to Thursday, 3 April 2003

Tuesday, 18 March 2003

1. Ali Musa 'Alan
2. Nabeel Mohammed Dwidar
3. Nasr Eldin Mustafa Asedeh

Sunday, 23 March 2003

Ibrahim Mohammed Alfleet

Monday, 24 March 2003

Ahmed Imad Fayez Abahreh (15 years old)

Tuesday, 25 March 2003

1. Mahmoud Bassam Nasar (14 years old)
2. Muwafaq Abdelraziq Badawneh
3. Nader Salameh Al-Jawarish
4. Alaa' Eldin Mohammed Ayad
5. Christine George Sa'deh (12 years old)

Thursday, 27 March 2003

1. Iyad Khalil Fayad
2. Ihab Said Jars

Friday, 28 March 2003

Mohammed Awad Muqbil Ghanem

Sunday, 30 March 2003

Mohammed Ahmed Darwish (15 years old)

Monday, 31 March 2003

1. Mahmoud Mohammed Al-Mashharawi
2. Mahmoud Ali Al-Najjar (18 years old)
3. Mohammed Farouk Tafesh (16 years old)

* The total number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,290 martyrs.

Wednesday, 2 April 2003

Omar Musa Ahmed Matar (14 years old) (died from wounds sustained on 28 March)

Thursday, 3 April 2003

1. Khaled Ali Mohammed Rayan
2. Jihad Abdelaziz Nazal (14 years old)
3. Walid Tawfiq Al-Lidawi
4. Wisam Abdelkareem Al-Sha'ir
5. Ibrahim Abdelnour Abu Shaloof (18 years old)
6. Mahmoud Nafez Shaath
7. Iyad Mohammed Alyan